

[DATE]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) recommends all adolescents receive a series of vaccinations in order to stay protected against many serious illnesses. At age 11, all adolescents are recommended to receive one dose of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap), two doses of human papillomavirus (HPV) and one dose of meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine. An additional dose of HPV vaccine may be recommended for teens who start the series at age 15 or older. At age 16, a second dose of MCV4 is routinely recommended. Another vaccine that protects against the B strain of meningitis is also available. In addition to these vaccines, some adolescents may not have received other vaccines that were recommended at a younger age, including two doses of hepatitis A vaccine or two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

According to the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS), [FIRST NAME] still needs one or more of his/her adolescent immunizations. The table below lists the vaccine(s) that are past due for your child. Please contact your child's primary health care provider or local public health unit to make an appointment for your child to be vaccinated.

Vaccine(s) Recommended

While at your child's healthcare provider office, please also get your child immunized against influenza. Last season was the deadliest flu season on record for children; 192 children in the United States died due to influenza.

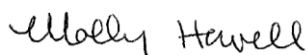
Cost should not be a barrier to immunizations. The federal Vaccines for Children Program provides vaccines at no cost to children who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, or underinsured (insurance doesn't cover vaccines).

With the current COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and around the world, the importance of vaccinations has become more critical. Having vaccine preventable diseases and COVID-19 circulating within a school at the same time would lead to large numbers of school absences, school closures, and adversely affect the health of the students. North Dakota healthcare providers and local public health units are taking every precaution to ensure your child can receive their immunizations safely during the pandemic.

After your child is immunized, be sure to request a copy of your child's immunization record.

If you received this letter in error or would like to opt out of receiving immunization reminders from the NDDoH, please complete an online form at <https://www.health.nd.gov/immunize/ndiis/reminder-recall>. If you have any questions, please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or 800.472.2180.

Sincerely,



Molly Howell, MPH
Immunization Program Manager